WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An interactive television system comprising:

a first input for receiving a first data stream;

a second input for receiving a second data stream, the first data stream having a higher priority than the second data stream; and

a processing unit coupled to the first input and the second input, characterized in that the processing unit creates a gap in the first data stream for inserting at least a portion of data carried by the second data stream, the gap being selected in a location in the first data stream so as to allow the data carried by the second stream to be displayed as close to a desired time as possible without disrupting display of data carried by the first data stream.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the data carried by the first data stream is closed caption data.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the data carried by the second data stream is interactive television data including interactive content.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the portion of data carried by the second data stream includes a reveal command.

5. An interactive television system comprising:

a first input for receiving a first data stream having a plurality of first data units;

a second input for receiving a second data stream having a plurality of second data units; and

a processing unit coupled to the first input and the second input, the processing unit including logic for:

creating a gap between two first data units in the first data stream;

inserting a first portion of the plurality of second data units into the created gap;

detecting another gap in the first data stream; and

electronically inserting a second portion of the plurality of second data units into the detected gap.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the plurality of first data units are closed caption data units.

7. The system of claim 5, wherein the plurality of second data units are interactive television data units including interactive content.

8. The system of claim 5, wherein the created and detected gaps are time slots in a television signal containing no data units.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the created gap is as closed to a desired reveal time as possible.

10. The system of claim 5, wherein the first portion of the plurality of second data units includes a reveal command.

11. The system of claim 5, wherein the two first data units are payload data.

12. An interactive television system including:

a first input for receiving a first data stream having a plurality of first data units;

a second input for receiving a second data stream having a plurality of second data units; and

a processing unit coupled to the first input and the second input, the processing unit including logic for:

identifying time slots of a television signal assigned to the plurality of first data units in the first data stream;

reassigning a portion of the plurality of first data units assigned to particular time slots to earlier time slots; and

assigning at least a portion of the plurality of second data units in the second data stream to the particular time slots.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the plurality of first data units are closed caption data units.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein the plurality of second data units are interactive television data units including interactive content.

15. The system of claim 12, wherein the portion of the plurality of second data units includes a reveal command.

16. The system of claim 12, wherein the portion of the plurality of first data units includes payload data.

17. In an interactive television system, a method for merging a first data stream having a plurality of first data units with a second data stream having a plurality of second data units for transmitting in a television signal, the first data stream having a higher priority than the second data stream, the method comprising the steps of:

creating a gap between two first data units in the first data stream;

inserting a first portion of the plurality of second data units into the created gap;

detecting another gap in the first data stream; and

electronically inserting a second portion of the plurality of second data units into the detected gap.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the plurality of first data units are closed caption data units.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein the plurality of second data units are interactive television data units including interactive content.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein the created and detected gaps are time slots in the television signal containing no data units.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the created gap is as close to a desired reveal time as possible.

22. The method of claim 17, wherein the first portion of the plurality of second data units includes a reveal command.

23. The method of claim 17, wherein the two first data units are payload data.

24. In an interactive television system, a method for merging a first data stream having a plurality of first data units with a second data stream having a plurality of second data units for transmitting in a television signal, the first data stream having a higher priority than the second data stream, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying time slots of the television signal assigned to the first data units in the first data stream;

reassigning a portion of the first data units assigned to particular time slots to earlier time slots; and

assigning at least a portion of the plurality of second data units in the second data stream to the particular time slots.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the plurality of first data units are closed caption data units.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein the plurality of second data units are interactive television data units including interactive content.

27. The method of claim 24, wherein the portion of the plurality of second data units includes a reveal command.

28. The method of claim 24, wherein the portion of the plurality of first data units includes payload data.